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**From:** Rowan, Anne [rowan.anne@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/1/2021 7:21:23 PM  
**To:** Cisar, Elizabeth [Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Wadlington, Christina [Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov]; Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; McLain, Jennifer L. [McLain.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Wehling, Carrie [Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov]; Thompson, Anita [Thompson.Anita@epa.gov]; Fong, Tera [Fong.Tera@epa.gov]; Conger, Nick [Conger.Nick@epa.gov]; Carroll, Timothy [Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Tejada, Matthew [Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov]; Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]; Fox, Radhika [Fox.Radhika@epa.gov]; Blount, Keyyana [blount.keyyana@epa.gov]; Risley, David [Risley.David@epa.gov]; Murray, Regan [Murray.Regan@epa.gov]; Bauer, Candice [bauer.candice@epa.gov]; Katims, Casey [Katims.Casey@epa.gov]; Gillespie, Taylor [Gillespie.Taylor@epa.gov]; Kelley, Jeff [kelley.jeff@epa.gov]; Adhar, Radha [Adhar.Radha@epa.gov]; Singer, Joshua [Singer.Joshua@epa.gov]; Lippert, Allison [lippert.allison@epa.gov]; Cannon, Phillippa [Cannon.Phillippa@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Release: Bottled water available to City of Benton Harbor residents

Looping in Region 5 CIC Section Chief Phillippa Cannon who will be serving EPA's PIO for the Unified Command (at least for the time being).

On Oct 1, 2021, at 2:14 PM, Cisar, Elizabeth <Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov> wrote:

I forwarded the below communication from Sylvia Orduno to some of you yesterday.

I wanted to flag that the Petitioners are planning a **community meeting on October 8** in Benton Harbor (see highlighted text below).

What public communications do we want to have made on behalf of EPA before that meeting?

We are working toward a meeting with the petitioners on Friday, October 7.

That meeting, is in part to respond to their request for input on the filter and water distribution plans.

I think we should also consider what else we would want to communicate to petitioners during that meeting, including EPA might say about a more formal response to the petition.

Thanks.

Elizabeth Cisar

Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov

Phone: (202)-564-4382; Cell: 4

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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**From:** Cisar, Elizabeth

**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:14 PM

**To:** Wadlington, Christina <Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov>; Cheryl Newton (Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov) <Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov>; Jennifer L. McLain (McLain.Jennifer@epa.gov) <McLain.Jennifer@epa.gov>;

Carrie Wehling (Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov) <Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov>; Thompson, Anita

<Thompson.Anita@epa.gov>; Tera Fong (Fong.Tera@epa.gov) <Fong.Tera@epa.gov>; Conger, Nick

<Conger.Nick@epa.gov>; Carroll, Timothy <Carroll.Timothy@epa.gov>; Nancy Grantham

(Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov) <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Rowan, Anne <rowan.anne@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Tejada, Matthew <Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov>; Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; Fox, Radhika <Fox.Radhika@epa.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Release: Bottled water available to City of Benton Harbor residents

Sharing the most recent communication from the petitioners. Wanted to keep you in the loop. Please share with any additional staff who should be looped in.

Elizabeth Cisar

[Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov)

Phone: (202)-564-4382; Cell: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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**From:** Walts, Alan <[walts.alan@epa.gov](mailto:walts.alan@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:10 PM

**To:** smorduno <[smorduno@epa.gov](mailto:smorduno@epa.gov)> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP); Cisar, Elizabeth <[Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>; Tejada, Matthew <[Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Release: Bottled water available to City of Benton Harbor residents

Thanks Sylvia, for my part I understand and respect your call on not meeting until we can discuss the details we committed to bring to the table. We've received comments from Elin as well outlining her concerns with the material she reviewed. We'll work as a team to prepare for a follow-up meeting next week.

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**From:** Sylvia Orduño <[smorduno@epa.gov](mailto:smorduno@epa.gov)> Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 2:04 PM

**To:** Walts, Alan <[walts.alan@epa.gov](mailto:walts.alan@epa.gov)>; Cisar, Elizabeth <[Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov)>; Tejada, Matthew <[Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Release: Bottled water available to City of Benton Harbor residents

Hello, sharing in case you haven't heard it. We learned today only through this press release.

I just spoke with Rev. Pinkeny who was notified this morning by Regina that his church would be a distribution site tomorrow afternoon. No future dates were provided or resources discussed.

Alan set a tentative meeting tomorrow afternoon with the petitioners and EPA/R5 to discuss EGLE and DHHS' written community plan for water and filter provisions and community education materials but none have been provided as of now. *This is very concerning and we are not interested in meeting without the Michigan promised plan and materials for review.*

Elin alerted us last night that she came upon a preliminary draft from DHHS of its community education document. She contends it is wrought with incorrect and misleading information about lead in drinking water, household safeguards, and health responsibilities.

Let's please figure out a full group follow up meeting next week to discuss progress and outstanding concerns. Accurate and complete information will be necessary to share at next Saturday's (10/9) Benton Harbor community meeting on the petition and what residents need to know about emergency relief, safety, and information. Detroit, Flint, and Highland Park water and EJ organizations are mobilizing in support from across the state.

We look forward to your responses.

With appreciation,  
Sylvia

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Elin Betanzo** <[elin@safewaterengineering.com](mailto:elin@safewaterengineering.com)>

Date: Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 9:07 AM

Subject: Fwd: Release: Bottled water available to City of Benton Harbor residents

To: Sylvia Orduño <[melissa@wateryoufightingfor.com](mailto:melissa@wateryoufightingfor.com)>, Nicholas Leonard <[nicholas.leonard@glelc.org](mailto:nicholas.leonard@glelc.org)>, Cyndi Roper <[croper@nrdc.org](mailto:croper@nrdc.org)>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **MI Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy** <[EGLE@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov)>

Date: Thu, Sep 30, 2021 at 9:02 AM

Subject: Release: Bottled water available to City of Benton Harbor residents

To: <[elin@safewaterengineering.com](mailto:elin@safewaterengineering.com)>

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2021

Gillian Conrad, BCHD, 269-927-5624, [gconrad@bchdmi.org](mailto:gconrad@bchdmi.org)

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# Bottled water available in City of Benton Harbor; filters and educational visits to homes planned

## *Local-state partnership aims to provide safe water as lead levels are permanently addressed*

Free bottled water for drinking will be made available to City of Benton Harbor residents today and in the following days, and a renewed door-to-door effort to distribute water filters in the city is planned during the coming days and weeks. The outreach is part of a longer-term effort to reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water, and to ensure residents have access to safe drinking water while the city replaces all lead service lines.

The water is free, and available to city residents who may take up to three cases of water per individual for consumption. Distribution is at the following locations and times:

- Thursday, Sept. 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency (CAA) at 331 Miller St., Benton Harbor. The CAA location will also distribute water next Monday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. until noon; Wednesday Oct. 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.; and Thursday, Oct. 7 from 4 to 6 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 1 from 2 to 6 p.m. at God's Household of Faith, 275 Pipestone, Benton Harbor
- Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Abundant Life Church of God in partnership with the Southwest Michigan Community Action Agency, 693 Columbus Ave., Benton Harbor

Additional distribution points will be announced as they are available. More information and updates are [available here](#).

In addition, a door-to-door campaign will start soon to renew efforts to provide water filters to all residents and share information on how to install and maintain the filters to effectively remove lead.

Lead levels in city drinking water have exceeded federal action standards for three consecutive years. Work is underway to permanently reduce those levels, and to replace all lead service lines within the city.

The outreach is a collaborative effort of the City of Benton Harbor, the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD), local community organizations, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

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**EGLE COVID-19 RESPONSE:** For details on EGLE's work during the pandemic, [visit this webpage](#). Follow state guidelines at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus).



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This email was sent to [elin@safewaterengineering.com](mailto:elin@safewaterengineering.com) using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy · Constitution Hall · 525 West Allegan Street · PO Box 30473 · Lansing, MI 48909 · 800-652-9278

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